MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!
workers.org Vol. 67, No. 44 October 30, 2025

Stop Trump's anti-worker offensive

Stop ICE assaults on migrants
I.C.E. OUT OF ILLINOIS
I.C.E. OUT OF EVERYWHERE
STOP DEPORTATIONS DEFEND IMMIGRANTS
DEFEND & PROTECT

A Sept. 6, 2025, protest in Chicago. The MAGA administration and its ICE storm troopers have assaulted immigrants and supporters in Chicago in late October.

Labor has strong turnout at New York City's 'No Kings' action. Can working-class and anti-imperialist demands take the lead in future mass mobilizations against the Trump police state? See page 4.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Portland, Oregon, groups hold 'Resist U.S. economic sanctions and military intervention worldwide' as part of actions across the U.S. Oct. 25 and 26 to protest the illegal U.S. blockade of Cuba. A vote at the United Nations General Assembly Oct. 29 called for an end to the blockade.

In this issue

- **In the U.S.**

Sports gambling and capitalism: Is there a connection? . . . 3
The movement needed beyond No Kings protests 4

- **Editorial**

Stop escalation in the Caribbean! 5

Articles at workers.org

- **In the U.S.**

Portland protesters say: 'End the blockade of Cuba' . . . . LINK
Starbucks workers intensify struggle, vote on striking . LINK
U.S. Veterans condemn Israel's ceasefire violations . . . . . LINK
On the Picket Line: Kaiser Permanente . . . . . LINK
Activists rally, fill courtroom for Mahmoud Khalil . . . . . LINK
Somerville for Palestine initiative is on Nov. ballot . . . . . LINK
Reports from the Black Power era . . . . . LINK
200+ years of U.S. deployments around China . . . . . LINK

- **Around the World**

Hamas leader in Gaza on status of agreement . . . . . LINK
President Maduro vows unity with Colombia . . . . . LINK
Venezuela: Armed Forces activate defense points . . . . . LINK
Israel continues its war crimes . . . . . LINK
What is Hamas' general amnesty initiative? . . . . . LINK

- **Editorial**

End the U.S. blockade of Cuba! . . . . . LINK

- **Mundo Obrero**

Venezuela: Fuerza Armada activa puntos de defensa . . LINK

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Workers World
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: wwp@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org

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Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Tear Down the Walls! Editor: Teddie Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Steve Gillis

Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Otis Grotewohl, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at **www.workers.org/join-form** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

National Office
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
boston@workers.org
instagram: @wwpboston

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Minnesota
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 5634
Philadelphia, PA 19129
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
206-218-4417
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

Sports gambling and capitalism: Is there a connection?

WW COMMENTARY

By Monica Moorehead

The opening of the 2025-26 National Basketball Association season was unexpectedly overshadowed when the FBI announced the arrests of two NBA sports figures Oct. 23 at a New York City news conference. Those arrested were Portland Trailblazers coach and former star player Chauncey Billups, who was inducted into the James Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame as a player in August, and Miami Heat player Terry Rozier, in two separate incidents of illegal sports gambling.

This investigation had been underway for more than two years. According to FBI director Kash Patel, it is expected to bring about an estimated 30 more arrests in the near future.

According to the indictment, Billups and Rozier had access to private information known by NBA players or NBA coaches that would likely affect the outcome of games or players' performances and provided that information to other co-conspirators in exchange for either a flat fee or a share of betting profits.

Patel stated, "This is the insider trading saga for the NBA, that's what this is." (ESPN, Oct. 23)

Both Billups and Rozier are out on bail and have been put on indefinite leave from the NBA. Their court dates are set for late November and early December, respectively.

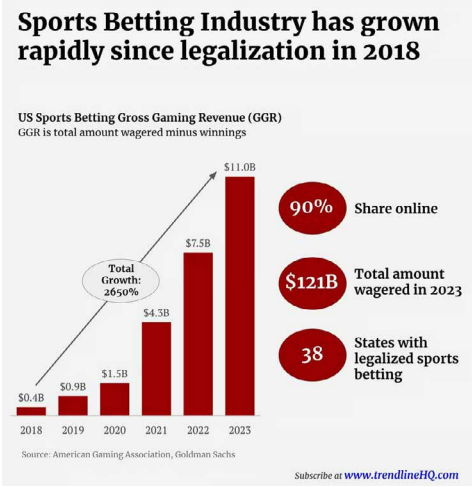
Not isolated occurrences

On the surface, one could easily misconstrue the arrests of Billups and Rozier as being two separate, random incidents. But that view would be missing the forest for the trees. U.S. sports, whether amateur or professional, is a multibillion-dollar for-profit industry under capitalism. And gambling, the majority of it deemed illegal for many decades, excluding casinos, has been an integral part of getting a larger cut of the profits for individual players or teams for over a century.

For instance, there was the infamous "Black Sox Scandal" involving game-fixing in Major League Baseball where, in exchange for payment from a gambling syndicate, eight members of the Chicago White Sox were accused of intentionally losing the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds.

The late, great baseball player Pete Rose to this day has been denied induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. When he was an active player Rose was banned forever from playing baseball for betting on his own team, the Cincinnati Reds.

These two NBA arrests are just the tip of the iceberg. Some are asking why a coach such as Billups, who had just signed a contract extension, or a player like Rozier, making millions of dollars, would allegedly become involved in illegal ways to gamble. The question is not why, but why not, when there is the potential and temptation of making even more money.



Sports betting industry revenue has grown 2,650% in five years.

The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992 signed by President George H.W. Bush made the business of gambling illegal in all but a handful of states, most notably Nevada.

But since this law could only curtail and not stop illegal gambling, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the 1992 law on May 14, 2018, allowing states to legally bring in more profits from betting.

The 2018 ruling led the way to establishing online sports betting, where people wanting to bet no longer had to discreetly place wagers for sports events, but have the luxury of using smart phones and computers to make those bets from anywhere in the world.

According to the American Gaming Association's annual report issued this past February, the U.S. sports betting industry posted a record $13.71 billion revenue in 2024, up from the 2023 record of $11.04 billion.

The AGA said legal sportsbooks took in nearly $150 billion worth of bets, a 22.2% increase from 2023. (ESPN, Feb. 19, 2025) A legal sportsbook is a company that is licensed and regulated by a state or jurisdiction to accept wagers on sporting events.

Sports betting ties to capitalism

The FBI has accused Billups specifically of having alleged ties to organized crime families with poker betting schemes. But in reality, isn't Wall Street the biggest legalized crime operation on a global scale? Patel accused the NBA of "inside trading," but don't Wall Street investors conduct inside trading daily behind closed doors with the buying and selling of trillions of dollars worth of stocks and bonds in the U.S. Stock Exchange? Doesn't virtually every institution under capitalism base its existence on making a profit?

It doesn't matter how rich an individual billionaire may be due to the inherent drive for banks and corporations to expand their global markets to make more profits. This drive for profits has a trickle down effect on various industries, including sports.

Figures like Billups, Rozier and Rose, whether guilty or not of charges waged against them, along with others, have become scapegoats within the real scandal, which is the addictive gambling industry itself.

The state intervention from the FBI exists not to mete out any real justice but to single out any perceived threat to the profits of the administrators of the capitalist system; that is the billionaire class.

And in the case of this white supremacist administration led by Donald Trump, racism is an underlying factor for the FBI targeting a predominately Black, immensely popular league like the NBA. ☐

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The movement needed beyond No Kings protests

WW COMMENTARY

By Betsey Piette

Organized by the liberal groups Indivisible, 50501 and MoveOn, an estimated 7 million to 8 million people demonstrated on the streets of over 2,500 U.S. cities on Oct. 18 in No Kings Day protests.

For the most part, the leaders of these groups' political demands were focused against President Donald Trump, but raised few issues beyond "reestablishing democratic rights" or putting Democrats back in office in Congress and the state houses in the 2026 midterm elections.

In many cities, speakers were limited to official Democratic Party spokespeople, and unlike the No Kings event in June of 2025, few if any Palestinian politicians were invited to speak. There were even calls for marchers to wear or carry yellow items to show affinity with reactionary protesters in Hong Kong and the NATO-backed right-wing government in Ukraine, while no mention was made of stopping U.S. imperialism's war threats in Africa or South America. However, these calls found few supporters among the participants.

From the Hands-Off demonstrations in April to No Kings in June to these recent marches, worsening political repression and declining economic conditions are bringing more and more people into the streets. Beyond these one-day events, the on-going opposition to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and federal troops in Washington, D.C.; Chicago; Portland, Oregon; Los Angeles and elsewhere demonstrates that a resistance movement that goes beyond Democratic Party politics is indeed possible.

While not encouraged by those who called the actions, there were many pro-Palestine contingents on Oct. 18 in the No Kings marches, speaking out against Israeli-U.S. genocide in Gaza. In several cities, demonstrators held signs and chanted for "U.S. Hands off Venezuela!" and "ICE: U.S. Troops Out of our Cities!" In Dallas, for example, there was an openness among youth for a more radical, revolutionary solution.

No Kings protest, Philadelphia, Oct. 18, 2025. (WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE)

After the official Seattle rally, a militant Free Palestine contingent — including Seattle Against War, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Students for a Democratic Society and Workers World Party — urged continued solidarity for the Palestinian revolution.

In New York City, unions fighting against the growing threat of layoffs and attacks against government workers joined together in a contingent.

In the brief period since Oct. 18, the Trump administration has continued to threaten deep cuts, if not the complete elimination of social programs for low-income workers. This includes cutting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for 42 million people if the federal budget standoff doesn't end by Nov. 1. Even now, thousands of federal workers are being forced to work without pay — essentially enslaved labor — and many are turning to food banks to get essential items for their families.

Yes, it was impressive that millions of people protested a president less than a year into his administration. Yes, this was arguably the largest one-day protest demonstration in U.S. history. Yet the challenge for the working-class and anti-imperialist left is to get to these newly mobilized masses and offer them a way to go far beyond the Democratic Party.

To defeat Trump's aggressive moves toward a police state, we need to do more than march. Following the lead of workers in Italy and Spain in solidarity with Palestine, a one- or two-day general strike would have a much broader impact.

To push back against Trump's fascist agenda, it will take a mass movement — one that is independent from both capitalist parties — and one with a clear, anti-imperialist orientation.

As the demonstrations against ICE and troops in our cities are showing, the opportunity is waiting for a strong, united left movement to provide a more effective leadership than the establishment groups that support the Democratic Party, which is itself a pro-imperialist party. ☐

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Stop escalation in the Caribbean!

Every doubt about U.S. aims, every trace of the Big Lie about a “drug war” was erased when the Pentagon’s top Secretary Pete Hegseth proclaimed Oct. 24 that the USS Gerald Ford aircraft carrier group is being sent to the Caribbean Sea. You don’t need Darth Vader’s Death Star to stop speedboats. The U.S. target is Venezuela’s popular government and all the people of the Western Hemisphere south of the U.S.

Even the corporate media had to admit that the Trump-Hegseth-Marco Rubio moves in the Caribbean have no relation to keeping fentanyl out of the United States. That battle should have started with the pharmaceutical monopolies regarding oxycontin.

The eight U.S. warships already in the region have blasted 10 small boats and murdered over 40 crew members. The boats themselves would need dozens of refuelings to even reach U.S. coasts. Now the USS Gerald Ford group with 35 warplanes will arrive, doubling the number of planes deployed to air bases in U.S.-ruled Puerto Rico, and with a total of more than 15,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, Marines and pilots primed for battle.

All imperialist leaders lie. It’s part of their job. But it’s worse with Trump, who has never had even the most flimsy connection with truth. He’s allergic to reality. Especially if the truth hurts his narrow material interests.

Trump is ordering the U.S. Armed Forces to change Venezuela’s government. If they wage aggressive war, Trump, Hegseth, Secretary of State Rubio, the Navy commanders—all are ordering the military to commit war crimes. Those who disagree resign in time, as the top Navy commander in the Caribbean did, for undisclosed reasons.

The rank-and-file troops on those ships should be warned that they are following illegal orders and any aid to the war effort makes them complicit. They have the right, even the duty, to refuse these illegal orders.

How will this U.S. escalation unfold, with what timetable and for what duration? How many Venezuelans will the Pentagon war machine target? Will the Trump-Hegseth-Rubio cabal risk an actual invasion with land forces to occupy Venezuela with a “forever war”?

That’s what the U.S. did in Afghanistan and Iraq. Venezuela, a larger country in area than either, is home to 30 million people. Some 4.5 million adults were officially enlisted in popular militias in August, and people report that millions more have volunteered after the U.S. began its war threats. The militias are now holding coordinated training exercises with the regular armed forces.

Volunteer fighters from Brazil and other Latin American countries have already declared their intention to form international brigades to help the Venezuelans drive out any U.S. forces in order to defend the sovereignty of the hemisphere from U.S. recolonization.

What can we in the anti-imperialist movement in the U.S. do? We must find a way first to show solidarity with the people of Bolivarian Venezuela, then to throw a wrench into the U.S. war machine. The first step is to mobilize united protests against U.S. intervention. The next is to organize these forces to find every way possible to impede the attack—before it starts, if possible—and to assure its failure if the Trump cabal carries it out.

Venezuela militia members on exercises.

The massive demonstrations showing revulsion to the overall Trump grab for power show the potential for mobilizing real resistance. And the challenge. The movement here in the United States is fighting on many fronts: defending migrants against ICE, stopping arms to Israel, stopping the cutbacks for workers, stopping attacks on the Black community, fighting the call for martial law—that’s a partial list.

The latest events show that the movement must give another demand priority: Stop the war on Venezuela! ☐

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